

Message Text

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53

ACTION FSI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 MMO-04 PER-03 SP-02 ABF-01

A-01 SSO-00 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /045 W

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O R 291550Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6912

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13444

FSI FOR TREASE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSI, OGEN

SUBJECT: ARABIC LANGUAGE FIELD SCHOOL

REF: STATE 255840

1. ALL STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS HAVE BEEN MAKING WONDERFUL EFFORT TO KEEP LANGUAGE PROGRAM GOING. AS QOU KNOWN, THIS OCCURRED IN SPITE OF FOUR CIVIL DISTURBANCES, THE LAST ONE NOW IN ITS SIXTH WEEK. INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS WERE WORKING ON DAYS WHEN OTHER SECTIONS HAD NO LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THIS ONLY VERY SMALL MARK OF TREMENDOUS DEDICATION OF INSTRUCTORS.

2. WHEN WORD FIRST CAME OF POSSIBLE TRANSFER AND, INDEED, OF POSSIBLE DEMISE OF FSI, AS THEY KNOW IT, SUTDENTS AND FACULTY WERE VERY GLUM. IT WAS NOT LONG, HOWEVER, BEFORE DETERMINATION BECAME THE BEST WORD TO DESCRIBE THE ATMOSPHERE. IT WAS DETERMINATION TO MAKE THIS TRANSFER, OR ANY OTHER ONE, WORK AND EVEN STRENGTHEN PROGRAM. IT WAS A GENUINE UPLIFT FOR MORALE WHEN, IN RESPONSE TO WASHINGTON QUERY AS TO HOW MANY TEACHERS MIGHT BE WILLING TO GO TUNIS, ALL RPT ALL STATED THEY WOULD GO.

3. MEANWHILE, SITUAION CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE IN CITY

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AND FINAL WORD FROM WASHINGTON CAME THAT STUDENTS AND

INSTRUCTORS SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR TUNIS. IN ONLY TWO DAYS 20 STUDENTS AND SOME 24 DEPENDENTS LEFT BEIRUT FOR TUNIS. MOST OF REMAINDER FOLLOW TOMORROW. ONE DRIVE HAS BEEN TO MOVE AS SMOOTHLY AND AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO SET UP SCHOOL IN TUNIS HOPEFULLY WITH CLASSES TO BEGIN ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3. THE GOAL HAS BEEN TO MOVE WITH AS LITTLE DISRUPTION AS POSSIBLE.

4. AS SO OFTEN RECOGNIZED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, THERE CAN BE NO SCHOOL NOR CAN THERE BE CONTINUITY WITHOUT OUR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AND ONE WAY FOR OUR SCHOOL TO CONTINUE WITH LEAST POSSIBLE DISRUPTION IS TO MAINTAIN OUR COMPLEMENT OF INSTRUCTORS.

5. THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN SEVERE YET TEACHERS HAVE COME TO EMBASSY TO PACK MATERIALS; THEY HAVE DRIVEN FROM THE MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK ON DAYS BEIRUT RADIO HAS SAID ROADS WERE CONTROLLED BY SNIPERS AND ARMED MEN; AND THEY HAVE ENTERED AREAS OF THE CITY AT SEVERE RISK OF LIFE TO COMPLETE PASSPORT FORMALITIES TO TRAVEL TO TUNIS.

6. REFTEL INDICATING TWO INSTRUCTORS MUST BE LEFT BEHIND IS, THEREFORE, A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BLOW. WITH MOST STUDENTS GONE AND SPECIAL EFFORTS HAVING BEEN MADE TO EXPEDITE DEPARTURE OF INSTRUCTORS AT EARLIEST MOMENT, IT VERY DIFFICULT, IN MIDST OF CONFUSION DURING MOVE TO TELL TWO OF OUR INSTRUCTORS THEY MUST BE CUT. DUE TO UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST YOUR URGENT RECONSIDERATION TO PERMIT ALL EIGHT INSTRUCTORS PROCEED TUNIS. BELIEVE THIS MOST IMPORTANT FOR MORALE OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY AND FOR CONTINUITY OF PROGRAM. REALIZE COST FACTORS ARE INVOLVED BUT BELIEVE THIS SMALL PRICE FOR ITS RETURN.

8. IN VIEW OF AGENCY OUR SITUATION, REQUEST TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FOLLOWING INSTRUCTORS:

FSL: ANSARAI, SARI
FARHA, HANNA
KAYYAL, ZIAD N.
NAJA, A. NASH'AT
CONTRACT: DABAGHI, GEORGE
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UWAYDAH, ABDUL KADR
SAKALLAH, ZEINAB
ANSARI, KHALDIYE
GODLEY

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NNN

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